

In the Claims

The following is an amendment to and a complete listing of the claims which replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) An ancillary tool for positioning and seating a prosthetic acetabulum in an anatomical or prosthetic cavity of a patient's hip, the tool comprising:

a handle for manipulating the acetabulum, including a rod provided, adjacent a distal end thereof, with a head moveably mounted on the rod and, at a proximal part of the rod, with ~~[[a]]~~ an impaction surface for application of a force ~~along said handle,~~

an endpiece adapted to be removably connected to said distal end of said rod handle and including an elastically deformable ring that is adapted to received the head therein ~~moveable both radially outwardly by force and radially inwardly when the force is relieved relative to a longitudinal axis of said handle and that defines both an outer face for engagement with an inner surface of the acetabulum and an opposite inner face for interaction of said endpiece with [[the]]~~ said head of the handle, [[and]]

wherein when a first force is applied, said head is introduced inside said ring and is urged along said handle to urge said head into engagement with said inner face of said ~~[[endpiece]]~~ ring to cause an outward radial expansion of ~~[[and]]~~ said elastically deformable ring relative to a longitudinal axis of said endpiece so that said ring wedges ~~expands radially to wedge~~ with ~~[[the]]~~ said inner surface of ~~[[the]]~~ said acetabulum to permit manipulation and placement of ~~[[the]]~~ said acetabulum by the handle in said anatomical or prosthetic cavity, and

wherein when a second is subsequently applied on said impaction surface of said rod, said acetabulum is seated ~~cause expansion and seating of the acetabulum~~ within ~~[[the]]~~ said anatomical or prosthetic cavity.

2. (previously presented) The tool of Claim 1, wherein said elastically deformable ring is radially deformable over substantially an entire periphery thereof.

3. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 1, wherein said outer face of said elastically deformable ring ~~[[of]]~~ constitutes substantially an entire surface of said endpiece so that substantially all of the entire surface of the endpiece is elastically deformable.

4. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 1, wherein said endpiece includes both a supple part including said elastically deformable ring and a rigid part secured to said supple part, and said rigid part including means for removably connecting said endpiece to said distal end of said ~~handle~~ rod.

5. (previously presented) The tool of Claim 4, wherein the rigid part of said endpiece is constituted by a metallic insert secured to said supple part.

6. (previously presented) The tool of Claim 4, wherein said supple part includes a generally hemispherical base to which said elastically deformable ring is elastically connected.

7. (previously presented) The tool of Claim 1, wherein said elastically deformable ring includes a plurality of petals, said outer and inner faces of said elastically deformable ring being respectively constituted by outer and inner surfaces of each of said petals.

8. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 4, wherein said rigid part of said endpiece defines a stop surface, in a longitudinal

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direction of said rod handle, for said head of said rod handle.

9. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 4, wherein said supple part of said endpiece presents at least one surface for transmission of ~~the force~~ forces between said rod handle and said acetabulum.

10. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 1, wherein said head of said ~~handle~~ rod defines a ramp surface adapted to cooperatively engage with said inner face of said elastically deformable ring of said endpiece.

11. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 1, wherein said handle further ~~includes a rigid rod on which said head is movably mounted, as well as~~ means for driving said head with respect to said rod in a movement of translation in a longitudinal direction of said rod.

12. (currently amended) The tool of Claim 11, wherein said handle further includes a sleeve disposed coaxially to said rod and at a distal end of which said head is rigidly fixed, and said means for driving said head with respect to said rod includes a grip screwed on said rod and connected in translation with said

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sleeve, and said sleeve being immobilized in rotation with respect to said rod.

13. (previously presented) The tool of Claim 12, wherein a ring member is axially interposed between said sleeve and said grip.

14. (currently amended) A method for positioning a prosthetic acetabulum in an anatomical or prosthetic cavity of a patient's hip, comprising the steps of:

providing a tool having a handle for manipulating the acetabulum, ~~provided, adjacent a distal end thereof, the handle including a rod and a head, the head adapted to with a head for~~ cooperatively ~~engaging~~ engage an inner face of an elastically deformable ring of an endpiece that is used to grip an internal surface of the acetabulum and which endpiece is removably secured to the distal end of the handle, the elastically deformable ring including an outer surface adapted to wedge against an inner surface of the acetabulum and an opposite inner surface adapted to interact said endpiece with said handle, and wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said handle further includes elements for applying a first force to urge ~~[[the]]~~ said head into cooperative engagement with ~~[[an]]~~ said inner ~~[[face]]~~ surface of ~~[[the]]~~ said elastically deformable ring to thereby radially expand ~~[[the]]~~ said

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elastically deformable ring with respect to a longitudinal axis of ~~[[the]]~~ said endpiece, ~~and wherein the elastically deformable ring includes both an outer face for wedging against an inner surface of the acetabulum and which is opposite the inner face that interacts the endpiece with the head of the handle,~~

~~placing the endpiece in the acetabulum,~~

placing ~~[[the]]~~ said endpiece in engagement with ~~[[the]]~~ said head of ~~[[the]]~~ said handle and said head within said acetabulum and providing a first force between ~~[[the]]~~ said head and ~~[[the]]~~ said endpiece so as to provoke radial elastic deformation of ~~[[the]]~~ said elastically deformable ring to thereby grip ~~[[the]]~~ said acetabulum by ~~[[the]]~~ said endpiece,

positioning ~~[[the]]~~ said acetabulum in ~~[[the]]~~ said cavity of ~~[[the]]~~ said patient's hip,

applying a second force along ~~[[the]]~~ said handle to cause ~~the head to expand the elastically deformable ring to thereby expand the~~ said acetabulum to seat within said cavity of said patient's hip,

disengaging ~~[[the]]~~ said head from ~~[[the]]~~ said endpiece and releasing ~~[[the]]~~ said first force to allow ~~[[the]]~~ said elastically deformable ring to recover to a non-expanded configuration, and

withdrawing ~~[[the]]~~ said endpiece from the positioned

acetabulum.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 including the additional steps of

providing a plurality of endpieces ~~[[of]]~~ having different sizes, ~~and/or~~ different geometric configurations, or both,

selecting an endpiece from ~~[[the]]~~ said plurality of endpieces that closely matches ~~[[the]]~~ said inner surface of ~~[[the]]~~ said acetabulum and securing ~~[[the]]~~ said selected endpiece to ~~[[the]]~~ said distal end of ~~[[the]]~~ said handle.